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Proposed strategic framework for the period 2008-2009

Part two: biennial programme plan

Programme 9
United Nations support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development

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Overall orientation

9.1 The programme was established following the final review and appraisal of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s (UN-NADAF) in 2002. As a result of that review, the General Assembly adopted its resolution 57/7, which brought to a close UN-NADAF and endorsed the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD)[1] as the framework for international community support to African development. In its resolution 57/7, the Assembly also outlined the substantive areas and modalities for providing such support, inter alia, by underscoring the need for a structure in the Secretariat in New York to review and report on support provided by the United Nations system and the international community for NEPAD and on the coordinated implementation of outcomes of summit meetings and conferences as they related to Africa as well as to coordinate global advocacy in support of the New Partnership. In addition, the Assembly welcomed the actions being taken at the regional level by the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) to organize the activities of the United Nations system around thematic clusters covering the priority areas of NEPAD and, in this regard, urged the strengthening of this process as a means of enhancing the effective response of the United Nations system in support of the New Partnership. Finally, it called upon the United Nations system to intensify its advocacy role and public information activities in support of Africa's development. Subsequent to resolution 57/7, in its resolution 57/300, the Assembly endorsed the creation of the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa and entrusted to the Special Adviser the role of coordinating reports and advocacy in support of NEPAD. The role of the Office in supporting NEPAD has been reaffirmed by the Assembly in a series of subsequent resolutions.

9.2 At the 2005 World Summit, world leaders reaffirmed their commitment to address the special needs of Africa, the only continent not on track to meet any of the goals of the Millennium Declaration by 2015. There is a commitment in NEPAD to achieve the Millennium Development Goals, which represents an important linkage with the Millennium Declaration. NEPAD substantially reflects the priorities on meeting the special needs of Africa as set out in the Millennium Declaration, namely: supporting the political and institutional structures of emerging democracies in Africa; building peacekeeping capacity further, in cooperation with regional organizations; taking special measures to address the challenges of poverty reduction and sustainable development by debt cancellation, increasing official development assistance, enhancing private capital flows and building capacities for trade; and helping Africa build its capacity to tackle the spread of HIV/AIDS and other infectious diseases. Consequently, through its support to NEPAD, this programme will also contribute substantively to the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals in Africa.

9.3 A major barrier to Africa's development has been the persistence of conflicts in some of the countries of the region. The need to develop a comprehensive response to promoting peace and security and development has long been recognized and was articulated in the report of the Secretary-General on the causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa (A/52/871). Since 1998, a number of United Nations initiatives in Africa

[1] NEPAD was formally adopted at the 37th Summit of the Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity, held in Lusaka in July 2001.

have been in line with the recommendations of the report, although a great deal still needs to be done. In recognition of this, by its resolution 60/223, the General Assembly called upon the Secretary-General to continue to monitor progress in implementation of the recommendations.

9.4 In accordance with the mandate provided in the General Assembly resolutions, the programme aims to: (a) mobilize the support and galvanize the efforts of the international community for African peace and development; (b) ensure that the development of Africa remains one of the main priorities of the international community; (c) promote a supportive international framework for African development efforts; (d) encourage a coordinated and effective response by the United Nations system at the policy and operational levels in support of African development; and (e) strengthen and enhance South-South cooperation in support of Africa's advancement.

9.5 Regional and international efforts have focused on the implementation of NEPAD and on assisting Africa's efforts in developing a robust architecture for peace and security. The programme will support those efforts through a mix of analytical work, advocacy and outreach, and improvement in the coordination of the work of the United Nations system in support of African development.

9.6 The Office of the Special Adviser for Africa provides overall coordination and leadership of the programme, which will be under the joint responsibility of the Office of the Special Adviser for Africa, ECA and the Department of Public Information.

Subprogramme 1
Coordination of global advocacy of and support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development

Objective of the Organization: To strengthen international cooperation in support of the New Partnership for Africa's Development and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals in Africa.

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat	Indicators of achievement
(a) Increased international community support to African development, in general, and to NEPAD, in particular	(a) (i) The number of recommendations in the reports of the Secretary-General incorporated into General Assembly resolutions on African development (ii) An increase in the number of United Nations system activities in support of African development (iii) An increase in the number of forums addressing South-South cooperation in support of Africa

(b) Improved United Nations coordination in providing support to African development	(b) An increase in the number of joint initiatives undertaken by the United Nations system in support of African development
(c) Increased international awareness of African development issues	(c) An increase in the number of visits to the website of the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa

Strategy

9.7 The subprogramme will ensure that African development issues are effectively addressed in the intergovernmental debates and adequately incorporated into the resolutions emerging from those bodies. It will seek to raise international awareness of African development issues through advocacy and catalytic activities, participation at key forums, encouragement of United Nations system coordination, promotion of South-South cooperation and engagement with civil society and the private sector.

9.8 In view of the interlinkages between peace and sustainable development in Africa, the subprogramme will continue to analyse and draw attention to the root causes of conflict in African countries, monitor early warning signals and make recommendations on steps which need to be taken to tackle violent conflicts in African countries.

9.9 The Office of the Special Adviser on Africa will continue to work closely with Member States, the African Union, the NEPAD secretariat, the entire United Nations system (including the Bretton Woods institutions), the Global Coalition for Africa and the Africa Partnership Forum in the performance of its functions. It will encourage the building of an international infrastructure consortium, with NEPAD as the main framework, to facilitate public and private infrastructure investment in Africa and will encourage and support the initiatives of the African Union and subregional organizations to prevent, mediate and resolve conflicts, with the assistance of the United Nations.

9.10 The Office of Special Adviser on Africa will also continue to establish and maintain contacts with civil society organizations and the private sector, promote South-South cooperation through, inter alia, the Tokyo International Conference on African Development process and provide support to various South-South forums. As a co-organizer of the Tokyo process and through its interactions with Member States from the South, the Office will continue to encourage forums that will result in practical measures to promote South-South cooperation to enable African countries to benefit from the sharing of experiences from other developing countries. Furthermore, the Office will closely monitor the follow-up on international commitments made to Africa in the context of the 2005 World Summit Outcome and other forums held in 2005.

Subprogramme 2
Regional coordination of and support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development

Objective of the Organization: To strengthen the United Nations system-wide support for the implementation of the New Partnership for Africa's Development at the regional and subregional levels.

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat	Indicators of achievement
(a) Enhanced coherence, coordination and cooperation among United Nations agencies in support of the implementation of NEPAD at the regional and subregional levels	(a) (i) The number of joint activities and programmes undertaken at the regional and subregional levels (ii) The number of overlapping programmes that are merged
(b) Improved cooperation and coordination between United Nations agencies and the African continental organizations (African Union, African Development Bank and the regional economic communities) for the effective implementation of NEPAD at the regional and subregional levels	(b) (i) An increase in the number of memorandums of understanding signed collectively or bilaterally between United Nations agencies and the African Union, the African Development Bank and the regional economic communities, aiming at strengthening joint programming and/or joint implementation of activities or programmes in support of NEPAD at the subregional and regional levels (ii) An increase in the number of programmes and projects implemented under those memorandums of understanding

Strategy

9.11 Substantive responsibility for this subprogramme is vested in ECA. In implementing the subprogramme, ECA will work closely with other United Nations bodies at the global and regional levels, particularly with the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa and the Department of Public Information, within the context of United Nations support for NEPAD.

9.12 The strategic focus of this subprogramme will be on strengthening inter-agency collaboration in the implementation of technical cooperation activities in support of the priorities identified in the action plans developed by the various thematic clusters. It will also focus on improving collaboration and coordination with the African Union, the African Development Bank, the NEPAD secretariat, the regional economic communities and regional organizations with a view to ensuring the effective implementation of NEPAD and the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals. The strategy would promote the guiding principles of NEPAD, build consensus on key priority areas of NEPAD, foster partnerships and networks

in support of NEPAD and monitor, assess and report on progress in the implementation of United Nations system-wide support of NEPAD.

Subprogramme 3
Public information and awareness activities in support of the New Partnership for Africa's Development

Objective of the Organization: To raise international awareness of the critical economic and social situation in Africa, as well as of the efforts made by Africa and the international community to promote the economic recovery and sustainable development of the region in support of the New Partnership for Africa's Development and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat	Indicators of achievement
(a) Improved quality and timely issuance of *Africa Renewal* and *Afrique renouveau*	(a) (i) The percentage of the target audience expressing satisfaction with the quality of the magazine (ii) A reduction in the number of days beyond 3 months for each issuance of *Africa Renewal* and *Afrique renouveau*
(b) Enhanced awareness of key thematic issues covered by the information materials produced by the subprogramme, both in print and on the website	(b) The percentage of the target audience indicating awareness of key thematic issues

Strategy

9.13 Substantive responsibility for the subprogramme lies with the Department of Public Information. The overall strategy relies on developing global communications plans on priority issues affecting Africa and on ensuring that those plans are implemented in coordination with the rest of the Department, the United Nations Communications Group and the United Nations system as a whole. Activities will include the quarterly publication of *Africa Renewal* magazine, together with a range of additional outputs, including web-only news and analysis, background notes, press releases and briefing papers for use by the non-United Nations international and African media. Dissemination to a diverse public and to target groups, such as parliamentarians, policymakers in both government and non-governmental organizations, trade unions, civil society and academic institutions will be achieved through direct contact with individuals and groups and through systematic outreach to the media in Africa and to the international mass media so as to ensure that key players are informed of major national and international initiatives and events that affect sustainable development in Africa.

Legislative mandates

General Assembly resolutions

55/2	United Nations Millennium Declaration
55/210	Implementation of the First United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (1997-2006), including the initiative to establish a world solidarity fund for poverty eradication
55/214	Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries
55/217	Causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa
55/279	Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010
56/95	Follow-up to the outcome of the Millennium Summit
57/2	United Nations Declaration on the New Partnership for Africa's Development
57/7	Final review and appraisal of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s and support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development
57/144	Follow-up to the outcome of the Millennium Summit
57/300	Strengthening of the United Nations: an agenda for further change
60/1	2005 World Summit Outcome
60/222	New Partnership for Africa's Development: progress in implementation and international support
60/223	Implementation of the recommendations contained in the report of the Secretary-General on the causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa

Security Council resolutions

1170 (1998)	Conflict prevention and the promotion of durable peace and security and sustainable development in Africa
1197 (1998)	Support for regional and subregional initiatives on Africa and strengthening of coordination between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations in the area of conflict prevention and maintenance of peace

Economic and Social Council resolutions

1998/44 Integrated and coordinated implementation and follow-up of major United Nations conferences and summits

Ministerial declaration adopted by the Council at its high-level segment of 2001